

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03163 132220Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 H-03 ABF-01 AGR-20

IGA-02 AID-20 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06

OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 132133Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1031

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

DEA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MONTHLY NARCOTIC REPORT - ECUADOR, APRIL 1974

1. BREAKTHROUGH OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IN ECUADOR MAY HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITH ARREST APRIL 15 OF FRANCISCO ADUM ADUM, NOTORIOUS TRAFFICKER. ADUM HAS BEEN LINKED TO OTHER KNOWN TRAFFICKERS AND ALTHOUGH USABLE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM IS BELIEVED TO BE SLIGHT HIS CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT, CONFIRMED BY JUDGE WHO REVIEWED EVIDENCE MAY 4, IS CONSIDERED ENCOURAGING.

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ADUM IS WELL-KNOWN TO THE POLICE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AS BOTH A CONTRABANDISTA AND AS A NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER, WE SEE NO SIGNS THAT THE POLICE ARE CONDUCTING MORE THAN A PERFUNCTORY INVESTIGATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES DESPITE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THEM BY DEA IN GUAYAQUIL. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO POLICE INVESTIGATORS ARE WORKING ON THE CASE AND THESE ARE PROBABLY ONLY PART-TIME. THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 03163 132220Z

LACK OF EFFORT AGAIN POINTS UP THE FACT THAT THE NEW

NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE CONTINUES TO LACK SUFFICIENT FULL TIME OFFICERS. DESPITE PROMISES TO VARIOUS USG OFFICIALS, THE POLICE COMMAND STILL HAS NOT ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT THE REQUIRED PERSONNEL NOR ARE POLICE OFFICERS WHO WERE TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES BY AID AND DEA ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT. LETHARGY, INSTITUTIONAL POLITICS AND THE DIFFICULTY OF CHANGING FROM OLD WAYS TO NEW CHARACTERIZE THE POLICE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

3. STATISTICS FOR THE 1ST QUARTER OF 1974 SHOW 302 ARRESTS AND 4.25 KGS OF COCAINE BASE SEIZED; 1085.69 KGS OF MARIHUANA WERE SEIZED OR DESTROYED, 5 LABORATORIES ELIMINATED AND 100 OPIUM PLANTS SEIZED OR DESTROYED.

4. CONSTRUCTIVE EDITORIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND NEWS STORIES OF ARRESTS AND SEIZURES CONTINUE TO INCREASE WITH FAVORABLE EFFECT OF INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PROBLEM IN ECUADOR.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, NARCOTICS, DRUG TRAFFIC, DATA, ARRESTS, DRUG SEIZURES, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO03163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0435
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740553/aaaabuqc.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MONTHLY NARCOTIC REPORT - ECUADOR, APRIL 1974
TAGS: SNAR, EC, (ADUM ADUM, FRANCISCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005